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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2004-4

DATE: March 26, 2004

TO: ALL CERTIFIED AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **OVERNIGHT STAYS IN CERTIFIED AMBULATORY SURGICAL
CENTERS—CLARIFICATION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

The purpose of this letter is to provide current information to Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC's) from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) related to overnight stays in ASC's. The letter dated March 12, 2004, Ref: S&C-04-22, summarizes the policy for both Medicare and non-Medicare patients.

For ASC's currently providing overnight stays, particular attention should be paid to the information in the paragraph in the middle of page two as it relates to non-Medicare patients. The final sentence states that "an ASC that routinely provides overnight recovery stays in the ASC itself, regardless of the payment source, may no longer meet the definition of an ASC, and will jeopardize its Medicare certification."

If you have any questions, you can contact the person from CMS identified in the letter or Sylvia Creswell from our office at 208 / 334-6626.

[original signed by Debby Ransom]

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah
Enclosure